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ABSTRACT

Instructional materials are presented that are designed to give educators a comparative view of Haitian Creole, French, and English as well as to provide insight into the linguistic differences between Haitians and other national origin minority groups for better placement in English instruction. The text focuses on grammatical, lexical, phonological, and orthographic contrasts among the three languages, and the production of useful phrases in Haitian Creole. An introductory section outlines the origins of Haitian Creole and the functions of Haitian Creole and French in Haiti. Subsequent chapters provide instruction in: (1) phonology and orthography; (2) morphology, including pronouns, the verb system, adjectives, nouns, word order, plurality, definite determiners, negation; and (3) lexicology, including additional orthography, terms of respect, cognates and false cognates, and lexical borrowings. Appended materials include useful words and phrases, numbers, colors, seasons, days of the week, months of the year, lyrics to a popular Haitian song, Creole proverbs, and a true-false quiz. A brief bibliography is included. (MSE)

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HAITIAN CREOLE: A PRIMER

by

Glida L. Rorro

1985

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1. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PRIMER

The purpose of this Primer is to offer educators a comparative overview of Haitian Creole, French and English which will focus on their contrastive features.

On serving Haitian students at all levels, educators may find it valuable to gain insight into the linguistic differences of Haitian students which distinguish them from other national origin minority groups, Understanding should more effectively lead to proper program placement and toward sensitizing educators to Haitian student needs in acquiring English.

Goal

To increase awareness on the part of school staff to the contrasts found in Haitian Creole, standard French and English to enable staff to better understand and meet the cognitive and affective needs of the newly-arrived Haitian students.

Objectives

On reading this Primer, school staff will be able to do the following:

1. Understand basic grammatical contrasts found in Haitian Creole, standard French and English;
2. Understand lexical contrasts in these languages;
3. Understand the phonological system of Haitian Creole and how it may influence the Haitian student's acquisition of English;
4. Understand differences in the Haitian Creole ortho-

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graphic system;

5. Understand how to produce useful phrases in Haitian Creole to use with Haitian students, parents and the peer group;

6. Obtain a score of 80 percent on a True/False quiz of the linguistic contrasts presented.

11. THE ORIGIN OF HAITIAN CREOLE

The term Creole derives from the Portuguese word crioulo meaning an individual of European ancestry born and reared abroad. Haitian Creole is a language that developed by transplanted slaves who were taken to the Caribbean island of Saint Domingue from such regions of the West Coast of Africa as Dahomey and Guinea. The slaves were subsequently forced into contact with the French-speaking slave master buccaneers presumably hailing from Normandy and Picardy France during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Spanish and Amerindian (Carib and Arawak), words have entered this language whose lexical base is predominantly French and whose syntactical system is ostensibly African. The result is that while Haitian Creole has a dominant French lexical base, the two language systems are distinct.

Functions of Haitian Creole and French

Haitian Creole is an independent language in that it satisfies the communicative needs of the population. It is not a dialect variety of French as it is used for supraregional commun-

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ication by the mass media.

III. CONTRASTS FOUND IN HAITIAN CREOLE, FRENCH AND ENGLISH

Many differences exist among Haitian Creole, standard French and English which may initially affect the way in which a Haitian youngster learns English. This Primer will illustrate salient distinctions such as the following:

1. The spelling system of Haitian Creole is markedly simpler than that of French.
2. Grammatical rules are very different from those of French.

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CHAPTER 1

Phonology

The phonemic system of Haitian Creole is somewhat similar to French while the inflectional system is greatly reduced as compared with that of standard French.

The Haitian Creole Alphabet

The Haitian Creole alphabet is comprised of the following letters:

a, an, b, ch, d, e, è, en, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, o, on, ou, p, r, s, t, u, v, w, y, z.

Phoneme and Letter Correspondence

Each letter or group of letters has one phonetic value in Haitian Creole as these examples illustrate:

1. ch - is always pronounced as the English sh in "share" or, as in the French word chat;

2. g - is always pronounced as in the English word "girl" or, as in the French word gant;

3. z - replaces the /s/ of standard French in words which would have a /z/ sound.
   Example: The French word l'église (church), is written legliz in Haitian Creole.

4. t - never stands for /s/. The French word attention (attention), is written atansyon in Haitian Creole.

All Written Letters Are Pronounced

There are no silent letters at the end of a word: poch, tet, rad, let, goud, vaz, etcetera.

Phoneme and Letter Correspondence

Kouman ou Kapab Li ak Ekri Kreyòl (How one can read and write Creole).

	Haitian Creole		French	English
Letters	Sound	Word		
a, à	/a/	Papa	Papa	father
b	/b/	bòl	bol	bowl
ch	/ʃ/	chen	chien	shine
d	/d/	dat	date	date
e	/e/	te	thé	say
è	/e/	tèt	tête	head
f	/f/	fasil	facil	five
g	/g/	bag	bague	big
h	/h/	enhen	oui	hand
i	/i/	piti	petit	pet
j	/j/	garaj	garage	pleasure
k	/k/	kado	cadeau	cat
l	/l/	lui	luile	Louis
m	/m/	mato	marteau	mat
n	/n/	nòs	nosse	now
o	/o/	foto	foto	photo
ò	/ɔ/	mò	mort	more
ou	/ou/	poul	poule	pool

Letters	Sound	Word	French	English (cont.)
p	/p/	pen	pain	pen
r	/r/	rat	raton	rat
s	/s/	sòs	sauce	soul
t	/t/	tomat	tomate	toad
v	/v/	vèt	vert	veteran
w	/w/	woma	homard	worm
y	/j/	yè	hier	yes
z	/z/	ze	oeuf	zipper
an	/a/	ban	bank	ba*
ann	/an/	vann	vendre	fond
on	/ɔ̃/	son	son	on*
onn	/ɔ̃n/	ponn	pondre	on*
en	/æ̃/	pen	pain	land
enn	/ɛ/	venn	veine	spend
ui	/ɥi/	uit	huit	sweet

* There is no English equivalent.

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Phonetic Contrasts in the Occurrence of /r/

The spelling system that is used in Haitian Creole is phonemic in that it provides a one to one correspondence with phoneme and letter. A specific contrast exists however, in the writing and sound systems in the occurrence of /r/ in Haitian Creole and standard French.

The /r/ is produced when the back of the tongue articulates with the soft palate.

Example:	Haitian Creole	French	English
	/ɣ / velar	/ʁ / uvular	/r/ retro-flexed

This phoneme is not clearly differentiated from the semi-vowel /w/, occurring before a rounded vowel and after a non-labial consonant. Many Haitians on speaking English, substitute a /w/ in place of /r/ when an /r/ is in the initial position of a word. This may be caused by phonemic transfer from the Haitian Creole language.

Examples: /r/ vs. /w/

French	Haitian Creole
problem	pwoblem
Roger	Woje

Distribution of /r/

The /r/ occurrs in the following positions:

1. Preceding the high front vowels /a/, /e/, /i/.

Haitian Creole	French
ri	rire

Haitian Creole	French
rive	arriver
radio	radio
rad	robe
renmen	aimer

The /r/ does not occur in the following positions and is replaced by the semi-vowel /w/.

1. Preceding a rounded back vowel: /ou/, /o/, /o/, /on/.

Haitian Creole	French
wi	oui
gwo	gros
twop	trop
twa	trois

2. Following a labial consonant:

bwe	boire
Fwas	France

In Haitian Creole /r/ does not occur at the end of a syllable. On speaking English, a Haitian Creole-speaker may not pronounce the final /r/ of words. "Dollar" may be pronounced "dola," and "teacher," "teacha."

Haitian Creole	French
sè	soeur
pou	pour
lanmè	mer
dòmi	dormir

3. The /r/ does not occur in pre-consonental position.

šam	charme

In all cases, the absence of /r/ matches the presence of /r/ in French cognates.

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Suggested Exercises for Teachers

1. According to the phonemic contrasts presented, how would a Haitian Creole-speaker probably pronounce the following English words?

car	nation	route
chair	problem	rose
kitchen	Ruth	Robert

2. Find three words in English which would have the same, or nearly the same, sound as the Creole words.

   /S/ chen

   /J/ garage

3. M never has the value of n in Haitian Creole. How would the French word jambon be written in Haitian Creole?

4. S never stands for z in Haitian Creole. How would the French word eglise be written in Haitian Creole?

5. I never stands for s. How would the French word attention be written in Haitian Creole? How would the word Haitian be written in Haitian Creole?

6. In Haitian Creole, words ending with the consonant "r" are not generally pronounced by Haitians. How may Haitians pronounce "take care" in English? How may Haitians pronounce the word "dollar?"

7. Because the adverb of negation pas, as its counterparts "do not, did not, does not," precedes the verb, how may Haitians express the following sentences in English?

CHAPTER 2

Morphology

Personal Pronouns: Uncontracted and Contracted

Unlike English and French, pronouns in Haitian Creole do not vary according to function in the sentence. The uncontracted and contracted pronouns have only one form.

Uncontracted	Contracted	English
mwen, m	m	I
ou	w	you (singular)
li	l	he, she, it
nou	n	we, you (plural)
yo	y	they

Short and long forms exist. The short form is used before particles.

Examples: N ap maje. We are eating.

L ap etidye. She is studying.

The long form is used after consonants and at the end of a sentence.

Example: Li pale mwen. He speaks to me.

Examples of Contracted Subject Personal Pronouns

Singular

Pronoun	Sentence	Meaning
mwen, m	M kapab pale kreyòl.	I can speak Creole.
ou-w	W ap monte paten.	You are roller skating.

Pronoun	Sentence	Meaning
li, l	L ale lanmè.	She went to the sea.
	Plural	
nou, n	N a wè.	We'll see you.
yo, y	Y ap palè kounyea.	They are speaking now.

Due to the existence of a single form, the Haitian student may have difficulty with learning pronouns in English because of their varied forms.

Examples: Li renmen mwen. He likes me.
M renmen-l . I like him.

Emphatic Subject Personal Poonouns

These pronouns are used to place emphasis on the subject of a verb or when there is an opposition between two or more subjects. The emphatic pronouns are:

mwen-menm	I, myself
ou-menm	you, yourself
li-menm	he, she, it, himself, etc.
nou-menm	we, ourselves
yo-menm	they, themselves

Example: Se ou-menm! It is you!

The Verb System

Haitian Creole differs markedly from English and more so From French. French is in fact, more difficult for Haitian Creole-speakers to learn than English. French places a priority on the following:

tense --present, past, future, etcetera;

aspect--how the action is perceived-as being just completed for example;

mode--the way the action is perceive by the speaker: would, could, etcetera.

The Use of Verb Markers

In Haitian Creole the form of the verb does not vary to indicate persons, number and tense. Verbal categories are indicated by verb markers which precede the root form of the verb. thusly:

ap: The marker ap indicates an action which is going on. It provides the aspect of the verb as nonpunctual i.e., an action which is continuing. It is equivalent to the progressive (-ing) form in English. It may also express the immediate or near future.

Example:	Haitian Creole	English
	Ki sa ou ap fe?	What are you doing?
	M ap manje.	I am eating.
	L ap vini pita.	He will come later.

(when ap is used to express future time, the action is emphatic).

te: The marker te is used to indicate an action completed in the definite past.

Example:	Lè m rive li te sòti.	When I arrived, he went out.

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The past does not require a marker in Haitian Creole if the context denotes an action in the immediate past.

Examples:	M mache.	1.I walk. 2. I walked.
	M bwè lèt le matin.	I drink milk every morning.
	M bwè anpil lèt ye swa.	I drank a lot of milk last night.

a: The marker a is used to express the future. Its variants are av and ava.

Examples:	N a wè demen.	We'll see you tomorrow.
	N ava demen.	We'll see you tomorrow.

These forms illustrate functions of the markers on the base form mache (walk):

Haitian Creole	English
Li mache.	He walked.
Li te mache.	He walked. (has, had)
L a (ava) mache.	He will/would, walk.
L ap mache.	He is/was walking.
Li t a(ava) mache.	He would have walked.
Li t ap mache.	He was/had been walking.
L av ap mache.	He will/would be walking.
Li tav ap mache.	He would have been walking.

Verbs with two Forms

Certain verbs in Haitian Creole have two forms--a short form and a long form. The basic meaning of a Creole verb may be modified by a large set of modal verbs. Many modals lose their final vowel.

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long form	short form	
ale	al	to go
fini	fin	to finish
genyen	gen	to go
konnen	konn	to know
kapab	ka, kab	to be able to
mete	met	to put
pote	pot	to bring
rete	ret	to live
soti	sòt	to come, leave from (just)
vini	vin	to come

The long form is required when it ends a statement.

Examples: Nou fin manje. We finished eating.

Nan ki peyi ou sòti? What country are you from?

The Inchoative Form

Haitian Creole utilizes the following types of verbs:

1. completives

   fin (finish), trouve (find), fèk (make), sòt (leave)

2. inchoatives

   vin(i) (come), tonbe (fall), pran (take), petè (burst)

3. habitual

   konn (know)

4. ability

   kap, kab, ka, kapab (be able), mèt (put)

5. obligation

bezwen, fòk (need, must), gen dwa (have the need to), pou (be able), dwe (must)

The Verb "to be"

There is no equivalent of the verb "to be" (zero copula), in Haitian Creole. It is omitted in the following types of sentences:

1. Sentences with adjectives:

Examples: Li fò. He is strong.

2. Sentences with adverbial compliments:

Examples: Li ta. She is late.

Li la. It is there.

The Use of Ye

The form ye is used in wh questions. It is a special form, equivalent to se and zero copula. It always occurs at the end of the sentence.

Examples: Li nan mon. He's in the mountain.

Se nan mon li ye. It's in the mountain (that) he is.

Whenever zero copula or se are left in sentence final position after some sentence element has been shifted to the front of the sentence (topicalization), ye is used.

Examples: Li se dokte. She's a doctor.

Se dokte li ye. It's a doctor (that) she is.

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Ki jan ou ye?	How are you?
Ki sa sa-a ye?	What is this/that?

The Use of se

1. The form se is used with nouns which denote a profession and nationality.

Examples:	M se pwofese.	I am a teacher.
	Yo se ameriken.	They are American.
	Li se tayè.	He is a tailor.

2. An emphatic form exists composed of se and ye with se placed at the beginning of the sentence and ye at the end.

	Regular	Emphatic
Examples:	Li se dokte.	Se dokte li ye.
	She's a doctor	(It's a doctor (that) she is.
	Li nan kay.	Se nan kay li ye.
	He's at home.	It's at home (that) he is.

The form "be," is not expressed elsewhere.

Example:	M kontan.	I am happy.

Adjectives

Adjectives do not generally precede the noun. Bel (pretty), and long (long), are two exceptions.

Nouns

Word Order

Word order indicates relationships.

Examples: Manman timoun-nan. The boy's mother.....

Kay manman ou... Your mother's house...

The syntax of Haitian Creole is closer to English than to standard French.

Example: Ki lè es? What time is it?

Types of Nouns

Gender

There is no gender agreement in Haitian Creole nouns.

Examples: Se yon gason. He's a man.

Se yon fiy. She's a woman.

Kote sè-li? Where is he?

Kote jwe-li? Where is she playing?

Word Order in a Group of Nouns

Often, two or three words follow each other without any preposition between them.

Examples: wóut Miami an... The road to Miami...

koulè zwazo a the color of the bird..

Plurality

Creole nouns are invariable. They have the same form whether singular or plural.

Examples: pòt la the door

pòt yo the doors

The plural is marked only when a noun is particularized.

Examples: M gen chat. I have cats.

Kote chat-yo? (plural and particularized) — Where are the cats?

Kote chat-la? (singular and particularized) — Where is the cat?

Definite Determiners

A. Singular

The definite determiner in Haitian Creole is always placed after the noun. The selection of the correct form of the article for each noun is based on the last segment of the noun. The singular takes these forms: la, a, an, lan, nan.

la: It is used after a noun ending with a non-nasal consonant sound.

Examples: bab la — the beard

tab la — the table

a: It is used when the preceding word ends with a vowel.

Examples: kafe a — the coffee

chapo a — the hat

flè a — the flower

an: It is used when the preceding word ends with a nasal vowel an, en, or on.

Examples: kreyon an — the pencil

pen an — the bread

pon an — the bridge

nan/lan: These occur after a nasal consonant and are used by some speakers when the preceding word does not end with a nasal segment but where there is some nasal sound in the immediate environment.

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Examples:	mont-lan	the watch
	jenou-an	the knee

Negation

The adverb of negation pa, as its counterparts "do not," "does not," "did not," is generally placed before the verb.

Examples:	M pa kwè.	I do not believe.
	M pa vlè tande.	I do not want to listen.

SUGGESTED EXERCISES FOR TEACHERS

1. Differences in Haitian Creole syntax may cause initial interference when the student learns English. How might a Haitian Creole-speaker say "What time is it?" in English?

2. Definite determiners follow the noun in Haitian Creole. Would a Haitian Creole-speaker thus tend to say "table the".. in English, or tend to avoid the determiner altogether?

3. Due to the verb system in Haitian Creole, give examples of the verb forms Haitian Creole-speakers may use in the following English sentences:

    1. Today I go to school.
    2. Yesterday I went to school.
    3. Tomorrow I will go to school.

4. Considering the zero copula in Haitian Creole, how may a Haitian Creole-speaker say "I am a student," in English, and why?

1. What time it is?
2. They tend to avoid using the determiner.
3. They tend to use only one form:
   Today I go to school. Yesterday I go to school.
   Tomorrow I go to school.
4. "I student." because of zero copula in Haitian Creole.

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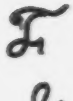
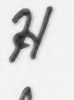
CHAPTER 3

Lexicology

Haitian Creole Orthography

In Haiti, students are taught cursive writing before they are taught printing. The following are examples of some upper case letters:

American	Haitian
	
	

Terms of Respect

Respect and formality are demonstrated in Haitian Creole in direct forms of address. Children show deference to an adult by calling him or her "aunty" - matant, or "uncle,"- tonton, even if there is no blood relationship.

In rural settings, adults may call very close friends komè or kompè - a term of endearment and affection.

Cognates

The following cognates most likely have extended meanings in addition to those presented here.

Creole	French	English
ba	barre	bar
ba	banc	bench
ban	bande	band
bèk	bec	beak
bòs	bosse	hump, boss
bom	bombe	bomb
chofè	chauffeur	chauffeur
dat	datte	date (palm)
fèt	fête	feast
koko	coco	coconut
kok	coq	cock
lak	lac	lake
lij	ligne	line
maset	machette	machete
obsève	observer	to observe

Creole	French	English
pjès	pièce	piece
rat	rat	rat
rõ	rond	round

False Cognates

The majority of lexical items in Haitian Creole are of French origin. Many of the meanings have changed over time and have acquired a meaning of their own in Creole. This should be of interest to French or ESL teachers when the child must interpret reading passages, etcetera.

Haitian Creole	English
a the (definite determiner)	a the (indefinite determiner)
abitan peasant	inhabitant one who occupies an area
aksyonè impudent, bold	action
audians conversation on familiar topics	audience a group of spectators
boutik "mama and papa" store	boutique exclusive fashion shop
brigã boisterous child	brigand a pirate
buk rural village, he goat	book
consulte patient receiving a physical examination	consult to seek information
fig banana	fig fruit of the palm tree

Haitian Creole	English
file to sharpen	file to make smooth
frekan fresh, disrespectful	frequent occuring often
kabann bed	cabin rural dwelling
kabare cafeteria tray	cabaret night club
kasket cap	casket a burial container
kolon a bunch	colon part of large intestine
kras stingy	crass rude
lak trap	lock to secure
marinad batter fried into fritters	marinade a blend of condiments for food preparation
mes slender	mess disorganized material
mis nurse	Miss an unmarried female
mit crumb	mitt short form for "mitten"
ordinè vulgar	ordinary common
pit sissal	pit a deep hole in the ground
plak a record	plaque a hanging wall ornament

Haitian Creole	English
rape to snap, snub	rape to sexually assault
vagabõ a womanizer	vagabond a drifter
vest jacket	vest a short, sleeveless garment
visyè one who engages in petty larceny	vicious dangerously cruel

Lexical Borrowings

In addition to its very strong French lexical base, Haitian Creole contains lexical items from several different sources including the following:

Amerindian: Arawak, Aztec, Carib		
patat	potato	Arawak
sapoti	type of fruit	Aztec
mapou	ceiba tree	Carib
English		
chadèk	grapefruit	Named for Shaddock, the individual who introduced cultivation of grapefruit in Haiti.
djob	job	
ponch	punch	
stimido	stevedore	
sèbòd	sideboard	
bokit	bucket	

Spanish	Haitian Creole	English
boleta	bolèt	lottery ticket
cabecear	kabicha	little nap
cimarrón	maron	fugitive
African		
wanga		fetish
loa, loua		Voodoo god
ongan		Voodoo priest
ounsi		Voodoo priestess
zonbi		phantom, spirit
banboula		little drum
Portuguese		
kòwòsòl (curacao)		type of fruit

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IV. Useful Words and Phrases

Greeting and welcoming a Haitian Creole-speaker in his/her native language is a considerate way of saying "hello." The following list contains useful expressions accompanied by their transliteration:

English	Haitian Creole	Transliteration
Hi!	Allo!	(ah-low)
Good morning/day	Bonjou	(bon-ZHEW)
Good afternoon/evening	Bonswa	(bon-SwA)
What is your name?	Ki jan ou rèlè?	(kee jan oo ray lay)
My name is ...	M rèlè...	(m rele)
Where do you live?	Kote ou rete?	(ko TAY oo ray TAY)
What is your telephone number?	Ki numèwo telefòn ou?	(kee new meh-wo tele FON OO)
please	suple(silvuple)	(soo-PLAY)
Sit down!	Chita!	(SHEE-tah)
Stand up!	Kanpe!	(kan-PAY)
what ace you doing?	Ki sa ou ap fè la-a?	(kee-sah-oo ap fay lah)
Don't do that!	Pa fè sa!	(pah-fay-sah)
Do you like...?	Eske ou renmen?	(ehs-keh-oo ray me^{h})
Are you sick?	Ou malad?	(oo mah-LAHD)
what ails you?	Ki sa k fè ou mal?	(KEE-sah-k-fay oo-mal)
Are you hungry?	Eske ou grangou?	(ehs-keh-oo gra^{h}-Goo)
Do you understand?	Eske ou konprann?	(ehs-keh-oo ke^{h}-pra^{h}n)
yes	wi	(wee)
no	non	(no^{h})

English	Haitian Creole	Transliteration
Read!	Li sa a	(lee-SAH-AH)
Begin!	Kòmanse	(KO-man-say)
Open!	Ouvè	(OU-vay)
Close!	Fèmen	(fay-mehⁿ)
the lavatory	twalèt	(twah-leht)
here	isit	(ee-SEET)
there	la-a	(lah-ah)
Thank you	Mèsi	(MAY-see)
Goodbye!	Orevwa!	(oh-ray-VWAH)

Appendix B

Numbers in Haitian Creole

1. Youn/en
2. De
3. Twa
4. Kat
5. Senk
6. Sis
7. Set
8. Uit
9. Nèf
10. Dis
11. Onz
12. Douz
13. Trèz
14. Katoz
15. Kenz
16. Sèz
17. Disèt
18. Dizuit
19. Diznèf
20. Ven
21. Venteen
22. Vennde
23. Venntwa, etc.
24. Vennkat
25. Vennsenk
26. Vennsis
27. Vennsèt
28. Venntuit
29. Ventnèf
30. Trant
31. Tranteen
32. Trennde
(same as above for other numbers)

40. Karant
50. Senkant
60. Swasant
70. .Swasanndis
80. Katreven
90. Katrevendis
100. San
200. Desan
1,000. Mil

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APPENDIX C

Ki Koulè Li Ye? What Color Is It?

Koulè: Colors

Nwa	Black
Rouj	Red
Vèt	Green
Ble	Blue
Jòn	Yellow
Blan	White
Vyolèt, Mòv	Purple
Gri	Gray
Jònabriko	Orange

APPENDIX D

Sezon: Seasons of the Year

Konbyen sezon ki genyen nan ane a? How many seasons are there in a year

Prentan: Anpil lapli ap tonbe tout moun ap plante.

Spring: Much rain falls and everyone plants.

Lete: Li fè cho anpil ann al larivyè.

Summer: It's very hot around the river.

Loton: Chalè fini tout fèy ap mi. The heat over, all the leaves become mature. (dry up)

Live: Fredi rive. Tete manto yo deyò.

Winter: Cold comes. Everyone wears a coat outside.

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APPENDIX E

Jou Semenn Yo

(Days of the Week)

Dimanch	Sunday
Lendi	Monday
Madi	Tuesday
Mèkredi	Wednesday
Jedi	Thursday
Vendredi	Friday
Samdi	Saturday

APPENDIX F

Mwa Yo

Mwa Ki Nan Ane A

Months of the Year

Janvye	January
Fevriye	February
Mas	March
Avril	April
Me	May
Jen	June
Jiye	July
Out	August
Septann	September
Oktòb	October
Novann	November
Desanm	December

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APPENDIX G

Ayiti Cheri

(Beloved Haiti)

This is a very popular song throughout Haiti.

Ayiti cheri
Pi bon peyi pase ou nan pwen
Fò k mwen te kite ou
Pou mwen te kapab
Konprann valè ou
Fò k mwen te lese ou
Pou m te ka apresye ou
Pou m santi vrèman
Tout sa ou te ye pou mwen.

Gen bon soleèy,
Bon rivyè e bon brevaj
An ba pye bwa
Ou toujou jwenn bon lonbraj
Gen bon ti van
K ap ba nou bon ti frechè
Ala bon peyi
O Bondye, se Ayiti.

APPENDIX H

Creole Proverbs

Haitians have a keen sense of humor which compliments their philosophical nature. Both elements are evident in their proverbs. Use the following proverbs for stimulating class discussion. Determine their figurative meanings and discuss their American equivalents.

Chi ge kat pat, me yon sel cheme li kuri.
A dog has four paws; but he can only go one way.

Piti piti zwazo fè nich li.
Little by little the bird makes its nest.

Se kouto sel ke kone sa ke nan ke yam.
Only the knife knows what is in the heart of the yam.

Kabrit gade je met kay avan-antre.
The goat looks in the eye of the master of the house before entering.

Ou pa kapab kouche sou nat pou wap pale nat mal.
You cannot sleep on a mat and then speak evil of it.

Tout ven touche kè.
Every vein affects the heart.

Prese ko ou prese, two prese pa fè jou lowri.
You can hurry as much as you like, but being in too big a hurry will not make the day dawn.

Deye mon ge mon.
Beyond the mountains there are more mountains still.

Sak vid pa kanpe.
An empty sack cannot stand up.

Tou sa ou pa kone pi gra pase ou.
All that you do not know is greater than you.

APPENDIX I

SUGGESTED TEACHER ACTIVITY

True/False Quiz

Directions: Indicate whether the item is true or false by placing a I or F on the designated line.

1. _____In its present form, Haitian Creole is a simplified variety of French.
2. _____Haitian Creole is the official language of Haiti.
3. _____In Haitian Creole the definite determiner precedes the noun as in French and English.
4. _____The grammatical system of Haitian Creole is more similar to that of English than French.
5. _____Due to its strong French influence, Haitian Creole has not borrowed words from other languages.
6. _____Learning French as a second language is easier for Haitians than learning English.
7. _____The basic meaning of a Haitian Creole verb may be modified by a large set of modal verbs.
8. _____In Haitian Creole there is no equivalent to the verb "to be" as in French and English.
9. _____Haitian Creole is spoken by approximately 90 percent of the population of Haiti.
10. _____Due to its being a Creole language, Haitian Creole has no codified writing system.

Answer Key

1. F 2. F 3. F 4. T 5. F 6. F 7. T 8. T 9. F 10. F

FOOTNOTES

[1] Derek Bickerton, "Creole Languages," Scientific American, July 1983, p. 120.

[2] François Leon Hoffman, Seminar on"Francophilia in Haiti," Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York, New York, , 1983.

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